

2 ~~34~~. (Unchanged) The material of claim ~~33~~ comprising at least about 50 weight percent titanium.

3 ~~35~~. (Unchanged) The material of claim ~~33~~ comprising greater than 0 weight percent tantalum and less than or equal to about 12 weight percent tantalum.

4 ~~36~~. (Unchanged) The material of claim ~~33~~ comprising greater than or equal to about 7 weight percent tantalum and less than or equal to about 12 weight percent tantalum.

5 ~~37~~. (Unchanged) The material of claim ~~33~~ being in the shape of a PVD target.

6 ~~44~~. (Amended) A material which consists essentially of at least one first element selected from the group consisting of titanium, tantalum, zirconium, hafnium, and niobium; and at least one second element selected from the group consisting of vanadium and nickel; and

wherein the material comprises the tantalum to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 5 weight percent and less than or equal to about 95 weight percent.

7 ~~45~~. (Amended) The material of claim ~~44~~ comprising the tantalum to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 5 weight percent and less than or equal to about 25 weight percent.

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8 ~~46~~. (Amended) The material of claim ~~44~~ comprising the tantalum to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 25 weight percent and less than or equal to about 50 weight percent.

9 ~~47~~. (Amended) The material of claim ~~44~~ comprising the tantalum to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 50 weight percent and less than or equal to about 75 weight percent.

10 ~~48~~. (Amended) The material of claim ~~44~~ comprising the tantalum to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 75 weight percent and less than or equal to about 95 weight percent.

11 ~~50~~. (Amended) A material which consists essentially of at least one first element selected from the group consisting of titanium, tantalum, zirconium, hafnium, and niobium; and at least one second element selected from the group consisting of vanadium and nickel; and

wherein the material comprises the titanium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 5 weight percent and less than or equal to about 25 weight percent.

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¹²~~53~~. (Amended) A material which consists essentially of at least one first element selected from the group consisting of titanium, tantalum, zirconium, hafnium, and niobium; and at least one second element selected from the group consisting of vanadium and nickel; and

wherein the material comprises titanium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 75 weight percent and less than or equal to about 95 weight percent.

¹³~~54~~. (Amended) A material which consists essentially of at least one first element selected from the group consisting of titanium, tantalum, zirconium, hafnium, and niobium; and at least one second element selected from the group consisting of vanadium and nickel; and

wherein the material comprises the hafnium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 5 weight percent and less than or equal to about 95 weight percent.

¹⁴~~55~~. (Amended) The material of claim ¹³~~54~~ comprising the hafnium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 5 weight percent and less than or equal to about 25 weight percent.

¹⁵~~56~~. (Amended) The material of claim ¹³~~54~~ comprising the hafnium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 25 weight percent and less than or equal to about 50 weight percent.

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16 ~~57~~ ¹³ (Amended) The material of claim ~~54~~ comprising the hafnium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 50 weight percent and less than or equal to about 75 weight percent.

17 ~~58~~ ¹³ (Amended) The material of claim ~~54~~ comprising the hafnium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 75 weight percent and less than or equal to about 95 weight percent.

18 ~~59~~ (Amended) A material which consists essentially of at least one first element selected from the group consisting of titanium, tantalum, zirconium, hafnium, and niobium; and at least one second element selected from the group consisting of vanadium and nickel; and

wherein the material comprises the niobium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 5 weight percent and less than or equal to about 95 weight percent.

19 ~~60~~ ¹⁸ (Amended) The material of claim ~~59~~ comprising the niobium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 5 weight percent and less than or equal to about 25 weight percent.

20 ~~61~~ ¹⁸ (Amended) The material of claim ~~59~~ comprising the niobium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 25 weight percent and less than or equal to about 50 weight percent.

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62. (Amended) The material of claim 59 comprising the niobium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 50 weight percent and less than or equal to about 75 weight percent.

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63. (Amended) The material of claim 59 comprising the niobium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 75 weight percent and less than or equal to about 95 weight percent.

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64. (Amended) A material which consists essentially of at least one first element selected from the group consisting of titanium, tantalum, zirconium, hafnium, and niobium; and at least one second element selected from the group consisting of vanadium and nickel; and

wherein the material comprises the zirconium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 5 weight percent and less than or equal to about 95 weight percent.

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65. (Amended) The material of claim 64 comprising the zirconium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 5 weight percent and less than or equal to about 25 weight percent.

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66. (Amended) The material of claim 64 comprising the zirconium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 25 weight percent and less than or equal to about 50 weight percent.

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~~36~~ 67. (Amended) The material of claim ~~64~~ comprising the zirconium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 50 weight percent and less than or equal to about 75 weight percent.

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~~37~~ 68. (Amended) The material of claim ~~64~~ comprising the zirconium to a concentration of greater than or equal to about 75 weight percent and less than or equal to about 95 weight percent.

~~38~~ 69. (Amended) A material which consists essentially of at least one first element selected from the group consisting of titanium, tantalum, zirconium, hafnium, and niobium; and at least one second element selected from the group consisting of vanadium and nickel; and

wherein the material is in the shape of a PVD target.

~~29~~ 70. (unchanged) A PVD target which consists essentially of Hf and Cr.

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